



Borough of Bedford.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1920.

To the Bedford Urban Sanitary Authority.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920 on the Public Health of the Borough of Bedford.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION.

The Rate Collector (Mr. C. E. Craddock) has kindly furnished the following estimate.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Estimated No. of Houses in the Borough, 30th June, 1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,583
No. of Empty Houses (estimated from Rate Books)	...						143
							<hr/>
Estimated No. of Occupied Houses	...	...	...				9,440
Average Occupiers per house (Census, 1911)	...	...	...				4 $\frac{2}{5}$
							<hr/>
							41,536
Allow for increased No. of Occupiers per house; four persons per 100 occupied houses	...	...	...				378
							<hr/>
Estimated Population, 30th June, 1920	...	...	...				41,914

The Registrar-General's estimate is as follows, and agrees closely with the above:—

For Birth Rate	...	...	...	41,783
For Death Rate	...	...	...	41,611

The population at the last Census was 39,185, so that it has remained nearly stationary for the last 10 years.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Bedford lies on the River Ouse, which runs from west to east through the town, the larger portion of which is situated on the northern bank. From the river the ground rises very gently towards the low range of hills which form the northern boundary of the valley, and at this point are closely approached by the river. To the south of the river extends the plain of the valley. In times of heavy rain the Ouse is subject to floods, which, in exceptional cases, extend to some portions of the town situated close to the river. This inconvenience has been greatly lessened by the construction of an overflow below the Old Bridge. The normal level of the river at this point is 82.6 feet above Ordnance datum; the level during the flood of April 30th, 1908, was 87.79 above Ordnance datum. The higher part of the town attains to 124 feet above O.D. Geologically speaking, the town is built over gravel and alluvium near the river, and on clay in its upper portions. The clay is Oxford clay. In some places there are limited formations of the Cornbrash and the Kellaway sands. In dry seasons inconvenience is sometimes caused by fissures in the clay, resulting in damage to the foundations of houses. In past years when the river was unusually full, portions of the town in its neighbourhood have been subject to flooding.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

As a county town with a weekly market in the centre of an agricultural district, Bedford is naturally the scene of many varied occupations connected with the land, but it may be broadly classed as a residential town, mainly devoted to education. This is due to the existence of the Harper Charity, bequeathed to his native town by Sir William Harper, a Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Elizabeth. The Harper Estates, chiefly situated in Holborn, were in 1873 placed under the care of Trustees, and the revenues are now mainly devoted to the upkeep of the various Harper Schools. These comprise the Bedford School, numbering 800; a High School for Girls, with 600 pupils; a Modern School for Boys (600); and a Modern School for Girls (300). The Harper Elementary Schools for Boys, Girls, and Infants are also in large part maintained from the funds of the endowment. Till the year 1897 the whole of the Elementary Education was provided by the Harper Trust, but the growth of the town necessitated the formation in that year of a School Board, now superseded.

The great expansion of the town in the last forty years is in the main attributable to the remodelling of the Harper Charity; the throwing open of the Schools having attracted large numbers of new settlers, who came for the sake of the educational advantages.

Though not a manufacturing town, Bedford yet possesses several factories (three or four being of considerable size), for the

manufacture of agricultural implements, of electrical engineering plant, cranes, &c., which give employment to over 3,000 men. There is also a large chocolate factory situated on the Elstow Road in a growing neighbourhood. The fact that the town lies on the main line of the Midland Railway, and is also served by a branch of the London and North-Western Railway system, together with the fact that suitable land for manufacturing purposes lies close to these lines, makes the town a suitable centre for the establishment of engineering and other works, which need not interfere with the amenities of the residential quarter at its opposite extremity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Taking the Registrar-General's estimate of the population as 41,611 for the purpose of calculating the Death Rate, and the number of deaths being 422, we find that the rate per thousand of population living is 10.13. Last year the rate was 11.89. The general death rate for England and Wales was 12.4, as against 13.8 for 1919, and that for the 148 "Smaller Towns," with populations between 20,000 and 50,000, among which Bedford is included, was 11.3, as against 12.6 for 1919. It will thus be seen that there was a marked decrease in mortality, both local and national.

Again, taking for the purpose of the Birth Rate the estimate of 41,783 given by the Registrar-General for the population, and the number of births as 763 (against 588 in 1919), we obtain the Birth Rate of 18.26 per 1,000 of the population, as against 14.11 in 1919. There were 49 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 64.22 per 1,000 births, as against 86.73 in 1919. The same rate for England and Wales was 80, as against 89 in 1919, and for the "Smaller Towns," 80, as against 90 in 1919. Here again a general improvement will be remarked, and in the case of Bedford the figures are particularly satisfactory, the drop in the infant mortality rate being one of 26 per cent. It is also satisfactory to note that there was a marked increase in the birth rate, 18.26, as against 14.11 in the preceding year, a percentage increase of 29.4.

The most striking feature in these figures is the great increase of the birth rate for Bedford in 1920, viz., 18.26, as against 14.11 for 1919. The birth rates for the whole county shew a similar increase; that for England and Wales being 25.4, as against 18.5 for 1919, and that for the "Smaller Towns," 24.9, as against 18.3 for 1919. It will be seen that notwithstanding the increase, the rate for Bedford is markedly below the general rate in both years: this is largely to be explained, as I have pointed out in previous Reports, by the "age and sex constitution" of the town, which contains a large proportion of children of school age, who come here for their education.

The number of Birth and Deaths in Bedford since 1897 are given below:—

Date.	Births.	Deaths.	Date.	Births.	Deaths.
1897	744	433	1909	717	429
1898	691	422	1910	715	376
1899	753	405	1911	706	485
1900	749	424	1912	716	426
1901	767	436	1913	678	398
1902	735	380	1914	650	459
1903	711	398	1915	677	607
1904	732	473	1916	699	494
1905	668	416	1917	620	495
1906	744	459	1918	625	592
1907	718	477	1919	588	476
1908	702	411	1920	763	422

POOR RELIEF.

The Clerk to the Guardians of the Bedford Union (Mr. W. G. Daniels) has kindly supplied the following information:—

As the statistics which have to be returned to the Ministry of Health relate to Poor Law Districts which do not coincide with the Borough boundaries, the figures are necessarily only approximate.

Taking the periods of comparison as March, 1920, and March, 1921:—

	March, 1920.	March, 1921.
Number of cases in the Borough in receipt of Outdoor Relief	181	175
Total number of dependent persons in these cases	310	330
Weekly cost	£81	£87

The number of persons receiving Institutional relief (*i.e.*, admission to the Poor Law Institution) from the Borough Parishes is not exactly ascertainable except by a minute process of dissection; the numbers are almost the same as in 1920, when there was a 10 per cent. increase over the whole of the Poor Law Union, and no striking difference has been observed between the ratio inside the Borough and that outside.

The above figures do not show any wide divergence between 1920 and 1921; the "Casuals" for the whole union numbered 99 for the week ended 26th March, 1921.

The Bedford County Hospital had during the year 1081 in-patients, and 4236 out-patients; also 1139 new casualties. The total attendance was 13,777. These figures include not only the town attendances, but also those from the surrounding district. There is also a large and most valuable Public Medical Service and Dispensary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

RAINFALL FOR 12 MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

Inches.			Inches.		
January	...	1.75	July	...	1.99
February	...	0.41	August	...	0.81
March	...	1.21	September	...	1.56
April	...	2.59	October	...	1.10
May	...	1.44	November	...	0.99
June	...	1.09	December	...	1.60
Total			...	16.54	

The Water Supply of Bedford is derived from the Oolite rock. The Waterworks are situated at the extreme N.W. boundary of the Borough, and consist of two portions. Of these, the first is situated between the Clapham Road and the Ouse, and consists of the Old Pumping Station and the Old and Branch Headings, and of the New Pumping Station and "No. 2 Well," which are about 125 yards due south of the Old Pumping Station. The second portion of the works are situated on the top of the hill on the opposite side of the Clapham Road. The lift is about 180 feet. The filtering apparatus at the top of the hill comprises a battery of 8 "pressure filters," four circular "sprinkler filters," and the three original rectangular filters. The Reservoirs are three in number, and consist of the original Storage and Service Reservoirs, and of the New Service Reservoir; the latter is built of concrete, and has a capacity of about 540,000 gallons. The sprinkler filters have revolving sprinkling arms pierced with holes for the distribution of the water over the beds; the two older ones having four arms, and the two newer six arms. The diameters of the beds of the two older are 88 feet, and of the two newer 93 feet. Connected with each filter is an automatic syphon, arranged so as periodically to set the arms in motion and to bring them to rest. In the two older beds the filtering material consists of layers of sand and polarite, supported on gravel; in the two newer the polarite is dispensed with.

The total quantity of water pumped to the Reservoirs averages per week 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 gallons.

The quality of the water is excellent; a bacteriological examination is made weekly of samples from the two Service Reservoirs.

The water finds its way into the headings through fissures in the Oolite rock, some of which no doubt communicate with the river, but the bulk of the supply is from the rock. The possibility of contamination is very small, as the nearest village on the banks is Clapham, about a mile and a half above the Pumping Station. In times of flood this village is sometimes inundated, and there is then a great likelihood of contaminating material being swept down the river; at such times, however, the bulk of water coming down is so great that any objectionable matter must suffer extreme dilution. No epidemic of illness has ever occurred in the town which could be traced to pollution of water from this source, and cases of typhoid are very rare in Bedford, and have nearly always been due to importation.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The war had a most unfortunate effect upon the Borough with regard to the Sewerage Scheme. This, though sanctioned by the Local Government Board as far back as 1912, was not brought into operation till the end of the year under review. The town was, therefore, dependent upon the old Sewage Farm, and this during a period when at times the population of the Borough was for months at a time 50 per cent. in excess of the normal. The Borough is greatly indebted to its Surveyor for the able manner in which, under great difficulties, he coped with the greatly increased work thrown on the already overburdened area of the Farm.

This is situated to the east of the town, and comprises 248 acres. The system employed to purify the sewage is that of broad irrigation, and has been in operation since the year 1868. The effluent is discharged into a channel known as the New Cut, which runs into the river near Newnham. The Pumping Station is situated at the end of the Embankment Walk, about a mile from the Old Bridge. The pumps are driven by electric energy derived from the Corporation Works. The Farm has only been once materially enlarged since its establishment, when the town numbered only 13,000 inhabitants.

During the war it was found necessary to obtain the temporary use of some extra land on a neighbouring farm. Notwithstanding this, serious complaint has been made as to the condition of the effluent, and a serious question has at times very nearly arisen.

The new Sewage Scheme, which was estimated originally to cost £110,500, consisted of two portions intimately connected, viz., a Main Drainage and a Sewage Disposal Scheme, and was formally inaugurated on June 28th, 1912, by the then Mayor (W. Roff, Esq.).

The Main Drainage Scheme comprised new sewers for the southern portion of the town, to be ultimately connected with the northern half of the system by an iron pipe laid in the bed of the river; the new sewer after thus crossing the river, picking up the existing northern sewer under the Embankment at the old Pumping Station, and running thence to the new Pumping Station. This has been erected on the same site, and in connection with the Refuse Destructor, it being intended that the energy developed in the Destructor cells should be utilised in working the pumps by which the sewage will be raised to the Sewage Disposal Works on Summer House Hill, situated about a mile from the Pumping Station.

As owing to the low level of the ground between the Elstow and London Roads, it would have been impossible to make any connection between the sewers of this district and the existing sewer head opposite Vulcan Street, the portion of the scheme relating to this district was carried out separately, and the sewage is at present lifted by means of a Shone's Ejector into the existing sewer head at Vulcan Street; when the scheme is fully ready these sewers will be connected up with the large sewer pipe crossing the river, which has been already mentioned. The surface water of the district is diverted into a ditch along the London Road, which debouches into the river below Cardington Mill.

The Sewage Disposal Works comprise a new Pumping Station at the Refuse Destructor Works, and a 39-inch Rising Main carrying the sewage across the river by means of a bridge to the top of Summer House Hill (a gentle eminence about one mile from the Pumping Station), on which the Purification Works have been erected. These consist of a series of precipitating tanks provided with outlets for running the sludge by gravitation into a special area, where it is proposed to treat it by "digging in." It is proposed to treat the crude sewage by chemical precipitants before the fluid effluent is diverted to the bacteria beds, which are arranged in two concentric semi-circles, the one above the other; the fluid gravitating from the upper to the lower tiers and finally discharging into the river. The beds are circular in form and filled with clinker, the fluid being distributed over them by revolving "sprinkler filters," worked by the fluid, the flow of which is controlled by dams in the inlet channels.

The alternate periods of activity and rest for each filter are regulated by an attached automatic syphon.

The refuse during the war was tipped into a ballast pit on the Irrigation Farm outside the Borough, as the Refuse Destructor was closed down on account of the war. This was re-opened on Sept. 21st, 1920. The formal opening of the New Sewage Works took place on July 23rd, 1920, but they were not brought into complete operation till Dec. 20th, 1920, when the whole of the sewage of the town was delivered to the new beds.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitation of the town is carried out entirely on the water-closet system; the number of houses in the Borough, in the middle of 1919, was approximately 9,560, and of these less than 20 are provided with closets other than water-closets. At the end of 1919 there were in use 4 pail closets, 7 earth closets, 6 cesspools, 3 middens, and 1 septic tank. These are all attached to houses situated in open ground on the outskirts of the borough. The three middens are situated on the property of one of the railways.

Owners of small houses, whenever their property is undergoing repairs at the instance of the Authority, are always urged to replace the insanitary and antiquated box seats of the closets by the infinitely more cleanly hinged ring seat and pedestal pan. In the newer houses of every class this is the prevailing type. The larger number of pans are of the wash down type, as opposed to the wash out. It is doubtful if any of the old D traps are left in the town, and if there be such, they would only be found in very old-fashioned houses of a rental which places them outside the range of systematic inspection.

SCAVENGING.

There are very few fixed receptacles for house refuse, the great majority of houses being provided with moveable receptacles. There has been of recent years a very great improvement in this respect. In some of my Reports before the war I called attention to the fact that many of the smaller householders had nothing better than old boxes, footbaths, and similar articles, in which to deposit their refuse. A vigorous campaign under the energetic direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector was initiated, and as a result a large proportion of the houses are now provided with proper galvanised iron sanitary dustbins, with proper covers. Unfortunately, in the last three years, owing to abnormally high prices and shortness of supply, it has not been possible to continue this reform at the former rate.

The total average quantity of house (and shop) refuse removed and disposed of per annum is about 10,000 tons. The house refuse is removed twice per week from about two-thirds of the town and once per week from the remaining one-third. There are 13 horses, 12 vans and carts, and 26 men engaged in the work. The vans and carts have sliding iron covers.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Full details of this are given in the appended Report of the Sanitary Inspector. In regard to the sanitary condition of the Public Elementary Schools it may be stated that the water supply is satisfactory. The various departments are distributed amongst six groups of buildings in various parts of the town. All the

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1920 for the Borough of Bedford on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	20	2	....
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	180	34	....
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises in- cluded in Part 3 of this Report.)	17	..	....
Total	217	36	....

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness	7	7		
Want of ventilation .. ..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..
Other nuisances .. ..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation:—				
Insufficient .. .. .	..	..
Unsuitable or defective	4	4		
Not separate for sexes ..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s. 101)	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (ss. 97 to 100) ..	25	25		
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report.)	..	..
Total	36	36	..	..

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESOME PRE- MISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN UN- FECTED PREMISES, SECTION'S 109--110.		
	Lists received from Employers.						Prosecutions.				Instances.	Not ces served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.		Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	Failing to send Lists.										
	Lists.	Con- tractors.	Workmen.	Lists.			Con- tractors.	Outworkers.								
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. (2) cleaning and washing Household Linen. Lace, lace curtains & nets Curtains & Furn. Hangings Furniture and Upholstery Electro-Plate File making Fur pulling Cables and Chains Cart Gear Locks, Latches and Keys Umbrellas, &c. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Racquet and tennis balls Paper Bags and Boxes Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Stuffed Toys Basket making	38 2 2 .. 															

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.	Class.	Number
Factories .. .. .	.. .. .	82	Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:— Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	7
Workshop Bakehouses .. .. .	.. .. .	54		
Other Workshops .. .. .	.. .. .	301	Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5)	4
Domestic Workshops .. .. .	.. .. .	134		
Work Places .. .. .	.. .. .	33	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	
Total number of workshops on Register ..		604	Other	
			Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—	
			Certificates granted during the year	
			In use at the end of the year	

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dated February, 1921.

buildings are comparatively modern, with the exception of those of the Harper Schools in the centre of the town. These are old and inconvenient, being also badly lighted. In the Ampthill Road Schools the heating arrangements require improvement. One grave defect common to all the schools is the "trough closet" system of sanitation. This is objectionable in itself, and should be condemned on the ground that where it is in use the children are not trained in the matter of personal cleanliness, and the proper use of the water-closet system at home.

MEAT INSPECTION, DISEASES IN MEAT, AND CONDITION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The inspection of Meat and Slaughter Houses is in the hands of Mr. E. T. Fell, who holds the Special Certificate for Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The Inspector, who is provided by the Authority with a bicycle, in order to facilitate his work, paid 3,578 visits to slaughter-houses during the year. As far as possible he makes a point of being present at the time of slaughtering, but owing to the large number (23), and scattered positions of the various premises, this is not always possible.

There was one prosecution for the offence of slaughtering on unlicensed premises, a fine of £5 and costs being imposed by the Bench.

The following table gives the particulars as to the carcasses or portions of carcasses from Slaughter Houses and Meat Shops which were condemned as unfit for food.

HOME DRESSED.				SEIZURE.	WEIGHT IN LBS.
1 Carcase and Offals (Cow)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	346
1 Carcase and Offals (Cow)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	528
1 Carcase and Offals (Cow)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	310
1 Carcase and Offals (Cow)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	558
1 Carcase and Offals (Ox)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	346
3 Carcases (Pigs)	...	...	...	Generalized Tuberculosis	183
Offals (Cow)	...	...	...	Localized Tuberculosis	136
Offals (Ox)	...	...	...	Localized Tuberculosis	102
Offals (Heifer)	...	...	...	Localized Tuberculosis	64
1 Liver (Ox)	...	...	...	Tuberculosis	23
Head, Tongue and Offal (Ox)	...	...	...	Tuberculosis	64
1 Quarter of Cow	...	...	...	Injury during life	136
Beef	...	...	...	Injury during life	27
1 Sheep and Offal	...	...	...	Moribund	50
1 Sheep	...	...	...	Moribund	56
6 Livers (Ox)	...	...	...	Fluke ("piped")	133
2 Livers (Ox)	...	...	...	Abscess	49
1 Liver (Cow)	...	...	...	Abscess	29

IMPORTED.

Beef	Bone Taint	738
Beef (Trimings)	Bone Taint	58
Beef (Chilled)	Incipient Decomposition	223
Mutton	Black Mould	824
27 Sheep... ..	Unfit and damaged in Transit	1221
5 Lambs	Unfit and damaged in Transit	159
4 Boxes Liver	Old, Mould, etc.	380
Tripe	Unfit	86
1 Box Sheeps Kidneys	Unfit	6 dozen
Total weight of flesh condemned		6,829 lbs.
Total weight condemned from Tuberculosis		2,660 lbs.

Number of carcasses inspected:—1,311 beasts, 3,428 sheep, 1,017 pigs.

NUMBER OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE IN THE DISTRICT AT THE
DATES MENTIONED.

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered ...	7	5	5
Licensed ...	22	18	18
Total ...	29	23	23

In addition to the raw meat condemned, the following articles of food (preserved, tinned, etc.), were surrendered and destroyed.

DESCRIPTION.	WEIGHT IN LBS.
16 Tins of Corned Beet	96
1 Tin of Tongue	6
1 Consignment of Sausage (delayed on rail)	42
5 Boxes of Smoked Fillets	66
12 Casks of Fresh Herrings	1344
4 Boxes of "Rock" Fish	448
1 Hamper of Shrimps (delayed on rail)	56
54 Imported Hams	682
Bacon	89
"Rock" Fish	92
Cod	28
Imported Pears	180
1 Tin of liquid eggs	28

Brought forward	...	...	...	3157 lbs.
754 Imported Eggs	...	...	...	—
24 Frozen Rabbits	...	...	...	—
5 Tins of Prawns	...	...	...	—
Total weight				3157 lbs.

There was a good supply of meat, both home and colonial, during the year; the latter arrived in much better condition than in the years of the war. No legal "seizures" of fresh meat were made, as in all instances the local dealers and importers gave notice at once of any inferior consignments. One large consignment of unsound hams was seized in open market at the very end of the year, so that proceedings could not be taken in the year under review: it may be mentioned, however, that a conviction was secured.

MILK SUPPLY.

74 samples of milk were sent to the Borough Analyst during the year: of these 64 were reported as genuine: in the remaining ten the results were as follows:—

No. 1.	Added Water	...	...	20%
No. 2.	„ „	...	...	11.6%
No. 30.	Added Water, 15.6%; Ab- stracted Fat	...	...	7.2%
No. 31.	„ „	...	...	7.5%
No. 43.	Abstracted Fat	...	...	31.3%
No. 45.	„ „	...	...	3.6%
No. 46.	„ „	...	...	7%
No. 49.	„ „	...	...	4%
No. 58.	„ „	...	...	4%
No. 79.	„ „	...	...	4%

In the case of Nos. 30 and 31, both from the same farm, proceedings were taken: the first case was dismissed by the Magistrates, and the second was consequently withdrawn by the prosecution, owing to the failure in the above case. No proceedings were taken in the subsequent cases. Since the decision in *Hunt v. Richardson*, it has been almost impossible to secure a conviction even in the most glaring instances.

Strictly speaking, there are no Dairies in the Borough, all the milk being supplied from cows on farms in the surrounding district, or obtained by rail, as "accommodation milk," by the dealers from other sources, often at a great distance.

There are only two cowsheds within the Borough. These are situated upon the outskirts on farms. One of them now contains only five or six cows; it has been properly kept. The other contains a considerable number of cows; it has recently been

remodelled on modern lines, and is very satisfactory. There has been no occasion to take any proceedings under the local Regulations, in which are embodied the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1899.

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

Four informal samples were taken; three were reported as genuine. The fourth, taken at the end of the year, was reported as containing .154 Borou Trioxide. In consequence a formal sample was taken early in the current year.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

85 samples of food and drugs were purchased during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

ARTICLES.				No. OF SAMPLES.		RESULT.
Milk	...	...	...	74	...	10 Adulterated
Cream	...	...	...	4	(Informal)1	"
Salad Oil	...	...	...	1	...	Genuine.
Condensed Milk...	...	...	...	1	...	"
Sausage	...	...	...	1	...	"
Lemon Crystals	...	...	...	1	...	"
Raspberry Jelly Crystals	...	...	...	1	...	"
Baking Powder	...	...	...	1	...	"
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	...	...	...	1	...	"

BAKEHOUSES, ETC.

There are 54 Bakehouses on the Register, none of which are underground. Though some of the premises are small and old-fashioned, they are clean and well conducted.

There are no establishments in the town in which foods are prepared on a large scale, except the new Chocolate Works of Messrs. Peak, Frean & Co. on the Elstow Road. The various pork butchers mostly prepare pies, sausages, and similar articles on a small scale for local consumption. The sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was nearly the same as last year, a large proportion occurring among the scholars in the secondary schools. The number of cases of Diphtheria was nearly double that of last year, which, however, was one of the lowest on record. There were four periods of intermission, in which no cases were notified, viz., Jan. 6th to 19th (13 days); Feb. 27th to March 15th (17 days); March 25th to April 19th (25 days); and Aug. 9th to Sept. 17th (39 days). No cases of Scarlet Fever were notified between April 21st to May 14th (23 days).

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES OF ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1920.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric.	Puer- peral Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Acute Polio- myelitis	Total.
January ..	25	5	..	..	1	..	31
February ..	11	6	..	..	..	..	17
March ..	22	3	..	1	..	..	26
April ..	2	6	..	..	1	..	9
May ..	8	7	..	..	..	..	15
June ..	11	5	..	..	..	..	16
July ..	5	5	..	..	..	..	10
August ..	9	1	2	..	1	..	13
September	5	6	..	..	..	..	11
October ..	8	6	1	..	1	..	16
November	14	12	..	..	..	..	26
December	7	5	..	..	1	..	13
	127	67	3	1	5	..	203

All but three of the Diphtheria cases, and 84 per cent. of the Scarlet Fever cases, were removed to the Hospital. A supply of antitoxin is kept at the Police Station for the use of medical practitioners should it be required suddenly during the night. Experience at the Hospital continues to show the benefit of using this invaluable remedy in large doses. The amount spent in Diphtheria Antitoxin during the year was £53 6s. 6d.

As always, "Return Cases" remain a constant source of anxiety in Hospital administration: all cases of nasal and aural discharge are always retained till the discharges have disappeared, even if this involves a lengthy stay in hospital. Unfortunately it is impossible to guard against the possibility of a recrudescence of the discharge if the patient, for example, catches a "cold" after leaving: and there is also the possibility of unsuspected latent causes of infection in the town.

SCARLET FEVER.

- Case No. 2. Brother developed Scarlet Fever a week previously.
 „ „ 3. Sister developed Scarlet Fever a week previously.
 „ „ 7. Sister developed Scarlet Fever a week previously.
 „ „ 9. In contact with No. 1.
 „ „ 10, 11, 12. Members of the same family.
 „ „ 15. Sister developed Scarlet Fever a week previously.
 „ „ 21. Brother returned from Isolation Hospital two weeks previously.

- Case No. 25. Patient's two brothers returned from Isolation Hospital a week previously.
- „ „ 33. Patient servant at County Hospital.
- „ „ 37. Brother returned from the Isolation Hospital a week previously.
- „ „ 47. Sister returned from the Isolation Hospital a week previously.
- „ „ 48. Patient in Bedford County Hospital.
- „ „ 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56. In contact at school.
- „ „ 54. Patient teacher at Goldington Road School, at which 7 cases had occurred.
- „ „ 60. In contact at County Hospital with No. 48.
- „ „ 62, 63, 65, 66. In contact at school.
- „ „ 69, 70. In contact at County Hospital with Nos. 48, 60.
- „ „ 87, 88, 89. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 93, 94. In contact at Private School.
- „ „ 102. Brother developed Scarlet Fever two weeks previously.
- „ „ 103. In contact at Private School with Nos. 93, 94.
- „ „ 120, 121. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 126. Sister returned from the Isolation Hospital two weeks previously.
- „ „ 127, 128. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 130. Brother returned from the Isolation Hospital a week previously.
- „ „ 131, 134. Members of the same family as Nos. 127, 128.
- „ „ 132. In contact with Nos. 127, 128, 131, 134.
- „ „ 136, 140. In contact with No. 135.
- „ „ 149, 150, 154, 155, 156. In contact at school.
- „ „ 162. Patient at School Boarding House.
- „ „ 188, 189. In contact at school.
- „ „ 195. Brother returned from the Isolation Hospital two weeks previously.

DIPHTHERIA.

- Case No. 8. Sister returned from Isolation Hospital two weeks previously.
- „ „ 34. In contact at school with No. 32.
- „ „ 81, 82. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 86. Mother developed Diphtheria two weeks previously.
- „ „ 98, 99. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 109. In contact with 98, 99.
- „ „ 113. In contact with No. 106.
- „ „ 123. Brother developed Diphtheria 3 weeks previously.
- „ „ 144. Sister developed Diphtheria two weeks previously.
- „ „ 172. In contact with No. 171.
- „ „ 175, 176. Members of the same family.
- „ „ 184, 187. In contact with Nos. 175, 176.

List of Milk Dealers (represented by numbers) supplying milk to houses where cases of Infectious Diseases occurred in the Borough during 1920.

Dealers.	Houses Supplied.		Totals.	Dealers.	Houses Supplied.		Totals.
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.			Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	
				Brought forward	64	31	95
1	4	0	4	20	1	0	1
2	3	1	4	21	2	2	4
3	3	1	4	22	4	1	5
4	1	0	1	23	2	0	2
5	3	2	5	24	2	1	3
6	4	2	6	25	0	1	1
7	3	0	3	26	0	1	1
8	3	5	8	27	0	1	1
9	6	5	11	28	1	0	1
10	3	0	3	29*	21	1	22
11	4	2	6	30	2	0	2
12	1	0	1	31	1	0	1
13	4	2	6	32	0	1	1
14	1	1	2	33	0	1	1
15	7	4	11	34	1	0	1
16	6	0	6	35	0	1	1
17	3	3	6	36	0	1	1
18	3	2	5	various	3	9	12
19	2	1	3	condensed	1	2	3
	64	31	95		105	54	159

* 3 original dealers amalgamated into one Limited Company.

Disease.	No of Cases.	No. of Houses Infected.
Scarlet Fever	127	105
Diphtheria	67	60
Enteric Fever	3	3
Erysipelas	5	5
Puerperal Fever	1	1
Totals	203	174

The Infant Department and one Class in the Mixed Department of Goldington School were closed in March, for a week, as a precautionary measure, owing to a sudden outbreak of Scarlet Fever: the attack was limited to seven children and one Teacher. All cases of absence due to Infectious Diseases or of suspected disease are reported immediately to the Health Office, and the Head Teachers are at once informed of all cases of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria notified to the Authority which affect their respective schools.

Since the abolition of compulsory notification of Measles, it has been found difficult to obtain information about cases of this disease, and it is worth while considering whether application should be made to the Ministry to place Measles again on the local list of notifiable diseases.

Six cases of Malaria were notified: in all instances the disease was contracted abroad.

There were three cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, with one death, two of them in females, including the fatal one, and one in an adolescent male. The origin of the diseases could not be traced in any of the cases.

There were 11 cases of Primary Pneumonia, and eight of "Influenzal" Pneumonia. There were 69 cases of Chicken Pox notified, as against 126 last year. There is no doubt there were many more cases than those notified, as the complaint is regarded by the public as a trivial one, and medical assistance is often not sought.

There were three cases of Enteric Fever, two female and one male. No contact with recognised cases of the disease could be traced in any instance. The two first cases were both notified in August: the patients were young women who had not been away from Bedford for quite a month before the onset of illness: the third case occurred in October in a man of middle age. This patient had been in the habit of occasionally drinking the waters of a small ditch situated in a disused ballast hole near a small foundry; he also had eaten watercress growing in the same locality. He had not been out of Bedford. It is possible that the water in the ditch had been contaminated, as it is quite close to the railway line, but no evidence could be obtained to this effect. It was at first suspected that a man who had worked at the same spot but had left the town might have been the source of infection. This man, an ex-soldier, was ultimately found: he had suffered at Gallipoli from dysentery, but had quite recovered, and never had Enteric. All the patients made good recoveries.

There were 14 deaths from Influenza.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the year. The requirements as to notification are loyally observed by the medical practitioners, and it has never been necessary to take any action to enforce the regulations and secure prompt notification.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

NOTE.—Cases previously notified and re-notified are not included in the following figures.

TABLE OF CASES OF PHTHISIS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE.
January 1st, 1920, to December 31st, 1920.

Under 1.		1 and under 5.		5 and under 15.		15 and under 25.		25 and under 45.		45 and under 65.		65 and upwards.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
..	6	5	6	11	13	6	3	2	..	..

TABLE OF CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS CLASSIFIED BY SEX AND AGE.

Under 1.		1 and under 5.		5 and under 15.		15 and under 25.		25 and under 45.		45 and under 65.		65 and upwards.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
..	..	2	..	2	2	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..

SMALL POX. •

There is provision on the Irrigation Farm for the possibility of a sporadic case of small pox occurring in the town. Some old farm buildings have been converted for the purpose, and are always ready for use. This provision, however, would be entirely inadequate should an outbreak of this dreaded disease ever occur: practically Bedford is an unvaccinated town, and therefore unprotected against this terrible risk. The following figures, kindly supplied by the Vaccination Officer (Mr. Chitham) require no comment.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

Births	...	...	...	...	...	762
Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	115
Exemptions from Vaccination	...	...	...	...	...	559
Dead	...	...	...	...	...	33
Balance of Births not yet accounted for	...	...	...	...	...	55

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

In October the work of the Infant Welfare Centres was transferred to the premises of the Free Library in Harpur Street, where accommodation has been provided quite independent of the library. There is a Hall used for meetings, etc., which serves excellently as a waiting room for the mothers, and a large room which has been specially fitted, and is used solely for the purposes of Weighing and Consultations and Classes. There are two "Centres," each of which holds one Session a week (on Tuesday and Thursday respectively) in the afternoon, when the Medical Officer of Health attends for consultations, and a rota of ladies assists the Health Visitor by doing the clerical work. The popularity of the Centres has, as before, been greatly aided by the kind action of the members of the Women's Adult School and the Women's Co-operative Guild in undertaking to supply tea to the mothers at a small charge. Special efforts are made to encourage the attendance of expectant mothers at the centre. In cases of necessity maternity outfits are lent at confinements. A Sewing Class has been established, and is held in the same room every Wednesday afternoon.

Further, a meeting is held every month of a circle of ladies for the purpose of making infants' garments, which are disposed of at cost price to the mothers attending the centres.

By the transfer of the work of the Centres the whole of the premises at 92, Midland Road have been freed for the use of the Day Nursery, which had previously been rather cramped for room. The number of children admitted has increased, and the institution is much appreciated. The Nursery is managed by a Committee of ladies appointed by the Infant Welfare Committee of the Town Council, which provides the cost of the rent, taxes and rates, gas, coal, and electric lighting, whilst the other expenses are met by voluntary effort directed by the Sub-Committee.

The Health Visitor generally begins her visits at a house about ten days after the notification of a birth is received, and the ideal aimed at is that on an average eight visits should be paid to each infant in the first twelve months of its life, though this standard has not been reached as yet. Attendance at a Centre is advised, and if the mother attends regularly the number of visits to the house can be reduced; if the mothers does not attend the Centre or attends irregularly, the Visitor calls on her at her home, and is generally successful in securing better attendance. In the case of delicate infants, or when any special reason exists, as for instance, Ophthalmia, the Visitor pays frequent, and, if necessary, daily visits.

The town is too small to support or to require a Maternity Hospital, at any rate, at present; cases requiring special surgical or medical treatment (*e.g.* eclampsia) are received at the County

Hospital. During the year five cases of Caesarean section were successfully operated on at the County Hospital, all of whom came from the Borough. All the infants survived. The great majority of illegitimate births occur in the Public Poor Law Institution; in many cases the mother and child are transferred to a Rescue Home, which is maintained in the town by a voluntary association, "The St. Albans' Diocesan Union for Preventive and Rescue Work," and much good work is done by helping the mothers to find work, and in re-establishing them, and in finding them homes, when necessary, for their infants. Cases of severe illness in infants, including those of diarrhoea, are received at the County Hospital, but there is a certain number of infants and young children who, though not ill enough for admission to a General Hospital, would greatly benefit were it possible to provide some form of "hostel," where such cases could be taken in for observation and treatment. In any extension of Welfare Work this object should be kept in view, and is already to a small extent attained, as mentioned above, by the Day Nursery.

Careful enquiry is made in all cases of still births and infant deaths, and of illegitimate births.

Of the births notified, 780 in number, 35 were premature (4.5%), and there were 21 still-born infants (2.7%).

The Health Visitor paid during the year 2,826 visits to infants and children under two years of age.

There was no epidemic of Infantile Diarrhoea, and only a few sporadic cases: two deaths of female infants at 12 days and 28 days, and two of male infants at 1 month and 3 months respectively were notified in the months of May, August, February and November.

One case of Puerperal Fever in private practice was notified which recovered, and two deaths after child-birth, one in hospital and one in private practice, which must be attributed to the same cause. Three deaths of infants at or under one month from Congenital Syphilis were notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Seven cases of this disease (as against eighteen last year) were notified, and were all treated at their own homes by the Health Visitor under the direction of the Medical Officer: recovery was complete in every instance.

No.	Date of Birth.	Date of Ophth. Notifi.	Sex.	Civil State.	Eye affected.		Result.	After History.
					R	L		
1	24. 2.20	1. 3.20	F	Leg.	R	L	Cured	Left Town.
2	19. 3.20	29. 3.20	M	"	R	L	"	Alive, Doing Well
3	1. 5.20	11. 5.20	M	"	—	L	"	" " "
4	10. 5.20	19. 5.20	M	"	R	L	"	" " "
5	6. 6.20	15. 6.20	F	"	—	L	"	" " "
6	12. 9.20	22. 9.20	M	"	R	—	"	" " "
7	19.12.20	29.12.20	F	Illeg.	R	L	"	" " "

TABLE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1920 AS RETURNED BY THE LOCAL REGISTRAR.

Month.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
January	51	26	3	4
February	30	29	8	3
March	31	28	—	1
April	31	26	2	5
May	28	37	5	1
June	30	32	4	3
July	32	19	1	5
August	37	25	2	4
September .. .	32	21	2	3
October	22	28	—	1
November	19	28	4	—
December	27	28	1	3
Totals	370	327	32	33

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	370	327
Illegitimate	32	33
	402	360

DEATHS OF RESIDENT INFANTS, 1920.

SEX.	AGE.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
Male ..	22 days.	.. Marasmus.
Male ..	14 days.	.. Congenital Syphilis.
Female ..	16 days.	.. Thrush : Exhaustion.
Female ..	2 months.	.. Bronchitis.
Male ..	2 months.	.. Otitis Media and Septic Meningitis
Female ..	1 day.	.. Murder by person unknown.
Female ..	11 weeks.	.. Broncho Pneumonia.
Male ..	1 month.	.. Diarrhœa
Female ..	30 days.	.. Tubercular Meningitis.
Female ..	2 days.	.. Deficient Vitality.
Male ..	1 minute.	.. Premature Birth.
Male ..	2 hours.	.. Heart Failure.
Female ..	2 months.	.. Enteritis : Exhaustion.
Male ..	1 month.	.. Marasmus.
Male ..	4 days.	.. Marasmus.
Male ..	5 months.	.. Broncho Pneumonia.
Male ..	2 months.	.. Influenza : Convulsions.
Female ..	4 months.	.. Rickets : Marasmus.
Female ..	2 months.	.. Broncho Pneumonia.
Female ..	15 hours.	.. Premature Birth.
Male ..	3 days.	.. Prematurity.
Male ..	17 days.	.. Congenital Malformation.
Male ..	8 hours.	.. Cong. Syphilis : Premature Birth.
Male ..	11 months.	.. Broncho Pneumonia.
Female ..	12 days.	.. Acute Gastritis.
Male ..	7 months.	.. Convulsions.
Female ..	9 hours.	.. Premature Birth.
Female ..	1 minute.	.. Premature Birth.
Female ..	1 day.	.. Premature Birth.
Male ..	2 months.	.. Marasmus.
Male ..	11 days.	.. Def. Vitality : Premature Birth.
Male ..	14 days.	.. Malnutrition.
Female ..	8 months.	.. Broncho Pneumonia.
Female ..	1 month.	.. Congenital Syphilis.
Male ..	4 months.	.. Broncho Pneumonia Marasmus.
Female ..	28 days.	.. Diarrhœa : Convulsions.
Male ..	4 hours.	.. Premature Birth.
Male ..	3 months.	.. Prematurity : Marasmus.
Female ..	15 minutes.	.. Premature birth.
Male ..	1 month.	.. Congenital Maldevelopment.
Male ..	9 months.	.. Convulsions.
Male ..	27 days.	.. Premature birth ; Marasmus.
Male ..	4 months.	.. Hydrocephalus ; Marasmus.
Male ..	3 months.	.. Bronchitis and Diarrhœa.
Male ..	3 months.	.. Gastritis : Influenza.
Female ..	14 days.	.. Meningocele.
Female ..	5 months.	.. Appendicitis.
Male ..	17 hours.	.. Twin birth ; Prematurity.
Male ..	9 hours.	.. Twin birth ; Prematurity.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS, 1918 AND 1919.

These Orders were put into effect towards the end of 1919, and during 1920 a large amount of dried milk and fresh milk (especially during the Moulders' Strike) was distributed to expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under 5. Dried milk was distributed either at cost price, half price, or free, according to the circumstances of the recipients, by means of orders issued by the Medical Officer of Health on information supplied by the Health Visitor; the distribution being made at the Health Office, and strict account being kept of all transactions. In a similar manner fresh milk was supplied either at half price on cash payment, or free, on the order of the Medical Officer, by means of vouchers and tickets issued to the recipients from the Centres, and by them taken to certain specially appointed milk dealers.

During the year 4,118 lbs. of dried milk were disposed of as described above at a cost of £471 3s.; and the sum of £363 13s. 9d. was received in part payment of the same. Fresh milk (6,199 pints) was supplied gratuitously to 92 families; 1,796 pints were supplied at half cost, the recipients paying the balance in cash at each time of getting the milk.

In the case of 48 families half the cost was defrayed by the Authority: 32 of these families had previously been supplied gratuitously.

In all 7,995 pints of milk were distributed at a cost to the Authority of £143 3s. 1d.

In addition, 273 lbs. of Virol were supplied to mothers monthly, at a little above cost price, but in a few instances gratuitously: the cost was £27 3s., and the sum received £31 6s. 5d.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Sanitary Administrative Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Assistant Inspectors, of whom the senior acts as Food Inspector, and two Clerks, and two disinfecting and drain testing men. There are two Nurses, one of whom acts exclusively as a Health Visitor for Infant Welfare work, and the other as a half-time Health Visitor, the other half of her time being assigned to the School Medical Service. The Hospital Staff consists of a Matron, a Sister, two Staff Nurses, and 9 Probation Nurses, and the domestic staff.

In all cases of infectious disease, after removal or recovery of the patient, disinfection of the rooms and beddings is done, free of charge, by means of Formalin; in some cases the walls are sprayed with a disinfectant. In all fatal cases of Phthisis, immediate notice of the death is given by the Registrar, and disinfection of the room occupied by the patient is always offered, and generally accepted. Patients are removed to the Hospital in a

horsed ambulance. A nurse is always sent out with the ambulance, which is kept at the Hospital. The Hospital is in telephonic communication with the Health Office and with the Medical Officer.

The Isolation Hospital is situated within the Borough boundaries between the London and Elstow Roads. The area of 17 acres on which it is built, purchased from the St. John's Hold Trustees, was increased by the purchase during the year 1911 of two portions of land abutting on the Hospital grounds, and measuring 5 acres 3 roods. The acquisition of this extra land was necessary in order to prevent new houses being built close up to the Hospital.

The buildings are of the "temporary" type, and comprise seven distinct blocks. With the exception of the laundry block, which is entirely of brick, all the blocks are "iron" buildings, consisting of wooden framework, covered externally with corrugated iron and lined internally with match boarding. The largest and oldest group contains the kitchen, a dining room for the nurses, and two wards, containing 12 beds each. There are two annexes, and a portion of the original building, which provides a room used as a dining room for the domestic staff, and also sleeping accommodation for some of them. There are three other blocks of somewhat smaller size, each containing two wards and a ward kitchen. In the laundry block, besides the laundry proper, which is provided with proper machinery and drying closets, there is a disinfecting station, provided with a Washington-Lyons disinfector of the largest size. Another detached building contains a coach-house, mortuary, etc. An entirely independent and separate block is situated at a distance from the Hospital and in the middle of the grounds. This was erected originally as a Small Pox Hospital, and contained two small wards, a kitchen, and two bedrooms. Owing to the pressure in the accommodation and the increase in the staff, it was found necessary to adapt this building just before the war as a Nurses' Dormitory.

During the year the Military Hut which was erected during the war, and subsequently purchased for Government, was extensively altered under the direction of the Borough Surveyor, and converted into quarters for the nurses. A sitting room and 10 bedrooms, together with a bathroom and sanitary accommodation have been provided: the whole forming a great improvement, and adding much to the comfort of the staff. The detached building, which had hitherto been used for the nurses, has been at the same time radically altered, and converted into two entirely separate portions, which will be used respectively as a Discharging Block and an Observation Block; thus supplying a much needed addition.

These alterations have made a great improvement in the Hospital, but they can only be regarded as temporary. Ex-

perience has shown that buildings of a temporary character are, in the long run, expensive, and in need of repair, and they are lacking in many of the conveniences of a thoroughly planned permanent hospital. This fact was realised before the war, and in the early part of 1914 the Surveyor, by direction of the Public Health Committee, prepared complete plans for an administrative block suitable not only for present use, but for the needs of a thoroughly modern and efficient Isolation Hospital. The matter was under the serious consideration of the Committee when the outbreak of war put a stop to all hopes of carrying the plan out, and it is to be feared that in the present state of affairs as to material and labour, and the heavy rates with which the town is burdened, it will be some time before the project can be resumed.

The drainage system is connected with the town sewers, and the Hospital is lighted throughout by electricity.

The number of beds available in the Hospital is 72, distributed as follows:—For Scarlet Fever, 40; for Diphtheria, 32. The staff during the year was composed as follows:—The Matron, one Sister, 4 Staff Nurses, 7 Probationers, Cook, Housemaid, 2 Ward Maids, 2 Laundresses, Needlewoman, and Porter. There is also an Engineer in charge of the laundry machinery and boilers, and of the disinfectors.

There was considerable difficulty during the year in maintaining the numbers of the Nursing Staff.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Those in force in the Borough are:—

Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846.

Public Libraries Act.

Housing of the Working Classes Act; Part II. adopted.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Sections 15-27 inclusive. Sections 29-33 inclusive; comprised in Part II. Sections 34-47 and 49 and 57 in Part III. Sections 52-60 and 62-66 in Part IV. Part V. Part VI. Part X. Notification of Births Act, 1907.

LABORATORY.

The usual weekly bacteriological examination of the water of the two Service Reservoirs was carried out throughout the year. The examination of swabs for cases of Diphtheria was resumed, 120 specimens being cultivated and examined: 39 specimens of tuberculous sputum were also examined: several specimens were also examined for "Widal's Reaction" in suspected cases of Enteric.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

The estimated number of houses in the Borough in October, 1920, was 9,583. Of these, 7,023 were of £20 rental and under, 5,293 being of £16 rental and under. This last figure, therefore, may be taken as the number of working class houses.

Three houses of this class were built during the year.

In May, 1920, an agreement was made between the Ministry of Health and the Town Council whereby the Board of Works undertook the carrying out of the Housing Scheme for Bedford. Under it 400 houses were to be erected on land adjoining the Elstow Road. The scheme was subsequently modified by reducing the number of houses to 200, as it was found that the original estimate was in excess of the present needs of the town. Notwithstanding many difficulties, the work has been energetically carried out, and the scheme is now (May, 1921) approaching completion, some of the houses being ready for occupation.

The population in the middle of 1920 was estimated by Mr. C. E. Craddock, the Rate Collector, as 41,914, and this estimate is probably very near the mark. The town has now reverted to its pre-war conditions; at one period of the war the population, including the troops, was somewhere about 60,000.

It is not likely that the population of the town will increase very rapidly, unless some large manufacturing concern should come to the neighbourhood.

OVERCROWDING.

There is no doubt that there is some overcrowding in the town; the Rate Collector estimates that about 100 houses are each occupied by two (or even in some instances) three families. In the smaller houses extra accommodation has often been made by utilising the parlour as a living room for constant use. During the war the common cause of overcrowding was that wives came from other districts to be near their husbands, who were quartered in the town; another cause was the influx of men employed on war work at the engineering firms, and a large airship factory, which was established about two to three miles from the town. It was impossible to do much to remedy this state of affairs, as it would have been futile to turn people out who had nowhere else to go. The difficulty now, however, is not so acute. The Sanitary Inspector investigated 125 cases, but in only 19 instances was the overcrowding excessive.

Though the demand for new houses exists in Bedford as elsewhere, the needs of the town are not so urgent as those of many other places. The greater part of the houses in the borough have been built within the last forty years, many of them within the last

fifteen. But for the war there is no doubt the demand for middle class and superior artizan dwellings would have been adequately and satisfactorily met by the local builders. The great want of the town was, and is, that of cottages for the labouring class that could be let at rents within the power of those classes to pay. No scheme can be satisfactory that does not provide for their needs. Were it possible, which it is not, in view of the financial situation of the Borough, to embark upon a scheme of reconstruction of the older districts in the centre of the town, then the first step should be to pull down certain groups of old cottages and replace them by good modern ones; there is plenty of space, and the opportunity could be taken to widen existing streets, and perhaps to open out new ones to relieve the dangerously congested traffic in the centre of the town. There is a good deal of ground in the very heart of the town which is practically dead for business purposes, but which would be capable of development, though at the same time in its present condition it is not insanitary, but merely lifeless. The houses in the older part of the town vary in character, according to the date of the building, and many possess gardens of considerable size. Even in the case of cottage property there is, as a rule, a sufficiency of open space about the houses; on the other hand, some of the business premises in the main streets are unduly cramped for room. In the newer parts of the town the streets are straight and wide, and many of them have been planted with trees, which add greatly to their appearance. The more highly rated houses are mainly of the villa or semi-detached villa type. They are well planned and modern in character. Besides these there are a great many streets consisting of houses suitable for families of moderate means. They generally consist of a ground floor and upper storey, and have no basements. Except in the central part of the town there are no houses with basements. The accommodation for the working classes is good; the houses contain, as a rule, a front parlour, a "living room," furnished with a kitchen range, a wash-house or scullery, and outside offices; and upstairs two, or generally three, bedrooms. Passages run at intervals between the houses to give access to the backyards; the space behind the houses is wide, and the drains are so laid that they run to the back, and are taken out to the street beneath the side passages. In all streets built within the last twenty years inspection chambers have been systematically introduced at all points where a change in the direction of the drain occurs. In the newer streets there has been an increasing tendency to provide the better houses of this class with bathrooms.

In judging any housing schemes in reference to Bedford it should always be borne in mind that the town fortunately possesses many of the advantages sought in "Garden Cities." It is of moderate size, with ready access to the country on all sides; it is happy in the possession of a beautiful river, to which the town

owes most of its charm; and it has a large park and two large recreation grounds, besides smaller open-air spaces. Owing to the great demand that arose for garden plots during the war, the amount of allotment ground has been lately very greatly increased, and the demand seems likely to increase further. Many of the houses at present have garden plots of seven or eight poles, but as a rule little use is made of the ground, which serves as a rubbish depôt rather than a garden; and the chief use of the "gardens" is that in the aggregate they serve as open-air spaces. It is a question whether they could not be put to better use as common recreation spaces for the houses they serve; but the question of maintenance and expense at once arises.

I reported to the Council [last year] in accordance with the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, Part II., Sec. 30, the particulars of 71 houses (containing 197 inmates) which "appear" to me "to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation." But at the present moment the matter can go no further, as there are no houses available for the inmates if their present abodes are demolished. All these houses belong to the cottage class, and I cannot too strongly emphasise that it is this class of house that is wanted first and foremost; and further, that any scheme of improvement and social betterment that does not make the raising of the living standard of the *poorest class* its main and fundamental object will not accomplish its aims.

The condemned houses are old, and many of them indifferently built. The rooms are small and low ceiled; the staircases narrow and steep; there is no proper storage place for food; there is want of proper washing accommodation; there are often only two bedrooms. The roofs and gutterings are defective; the walls are often damp from want of a damp course, causing the plaster to rot and drop; the window frames are generally very old, and in many cases the windows will only open at the bottom, and in a very few instances there is no indoor water supply, but several houses depend on a common tap. A few of the houses are also "back to back," or have no through ventilation.

For the sanitary work carried out in this class of case under the Housing Acts see the Appendix.

The difficulties in dealing with houses requiring to be made habitable, though not unfit for habitation, have been very great, owing to shortage of material and labour.

The majority of houses of the poorer class have, in Bedford, separate closet accommodation, with constant water supply; the exceptions are given on page 10. Since 1910, 3,527 galvanised iron dustbins have been provided in place of the old miscellaneous receptacles formerly in use.

Bedford is fortunate in having no unhealthy *areas* within the meaning of the various Acts,

BY-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES.

The building and other by-laws are, on the whole, satisfactory, and in some respects in advance of the requirements of the Ministry for the proposed housing schemes. New by-laws are required to deal with the conversion of existing houses into flats or tenements, as some houses have been already so converted, and the existing by-laws dealing with Houses let in Lodgings do not apply to the more highly rented houses.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1920).

I.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	...	...	41,611
(2) General death-rate	...	...	...	...	10.13
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	10.81
(4) Infantile mortality*	...	...	...	...	64.22

* Note.—Re 1,000 births.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	9,583
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses**	...	...	5,293
*** £16 rental and under.			
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	3

II.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	695
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	203
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	71
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	195

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers —

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... .. | 195 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... .. | 174 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — | |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... .. | — |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 223 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) By owners | 206 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — |

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- | | | |
|--|--------|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... .. | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... .. | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | — |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | — |

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS,
M.A., M.D. (Oxon.); D.P.H. (Camb.);
B.Sc. (Lond.).

May, 1921.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Bedford during the year 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	211	265
1. Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...
2. Small Pox ... ..	...	...
3. Measles ... ..	...	2
4. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	...	...
6. Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	3
7. Influenza	6	8
8. Erysipelas ... ..	...	...
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	18
10. Tuberculosis Meningitis	2	2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	3
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	20	30
13. Rheumatic Fever	1	1
14. Meningitis	1	...
15. Organic Heart Disease	25	22
16. Bronchitis	12	19
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	11	7
18. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...
19. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	2	2
20. Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	1
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	1	2
21A. Alcoholism ... ..	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	7	3
23. Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	2
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	1
25. Congenital Debility, &c.	17	7
26. Violence (apart from suicide)	5	4
27. Suicide... ..	3	...
28. Other defined diseases	68	81
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...
Special causes (included above) ... ..	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	1
Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year	29	20
Legitimate	26	15
Illegitimate	3	5
Total Births	402	361
Legitimate	368	324
Illegitimate	34	37
Population for Birth Rate	41783	...
Population for Death Rate	41611	...

BEDFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 an up- wards.
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria . (and Membranous croup)	67	..	8	43	9	4	3	..
Erysipelas	5	..	..	1	..	..	2	2
Scarlet fever	127	..	24	88	9	5	1	..
Typhus fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid fever	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
Puerperal fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox.. .. .	69	1	11	53	3	1	..	..
Acute primary pneumonia..	11	..	..	1	1	3	4	2
Acute broncho „ ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Acute influenzal „ ..	8	..	1	2	1	1	2	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Malaria	6	..	..	..	1	5	..	..
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	52	..	..	11	17	19	5	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	..	2	4	3	2	..	..
Totals	371	8	47	203	47	43	18	5

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1920.
 (Provisional figures, Population estimated to the middle of 1920, have
 . been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth- rate per 1,000 total popu- lation	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS				
		All causes	Enteric fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	Total deaths under 1 year	Deaths in public institutions	Certified causes of death	Inquest cases	Uncertified causes of death
England and Wales ..	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 great towns, including London (Census popula- tions exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
148 smaller towns (Census populations 20000—50000)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
London ..	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2



Borough of Bedford.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

BEDFORD :

H. BURT & SON, Printers & Stationers, 8, Mill Street.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

To the Bedford Education Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920 on School Inspection and the work associated therewith.

In the years previous to the War I had reported generally on the hygienic conditions of the Elementary Schools in the Borough. As those conditions remain essentially the same, many of the statements in the present Report must necessarily consist of repetitions of those previously made.

The Staff of the School Medical Service consists of the Medical Officer, one whole-time School Nurse (Miss Howard Jones), and one half-time Nurse (Miss Pilcher), who was appointed in August last, in concert with the Public Health Committee, to act as a School Nurse and Health Visitor. There are two School Attendance Officers who act always in conjunction with the Medical Service and are systematically supplied with information as to all cases of non-attendance due to infectious disease or contagious disorders certified by the Medical Officer.

The Schools are distributed in six groups as follows :—

The Harpur Schools in Harpur Street and Horne Lane, consisting of a Boys', a Girls', and an Infants' Department.

The Goldington Road Schools, comprising a Mixed Department, and an Infants' Department.

The Clapham Road Schools, similarly comprising a Mixed Department and an Infants' Department.

The Priory Street School for Infants only.

The Queen's Park Schools consisting of a Mixed Department and an Infants' Department.

The Ampthill Road Schools which comprise a Boys', a Girls', and an Infants' Department.

The Harpur Schools for Boys and Girls are old and in many respects ill-suited for their purpose : the best portion of the buildings is the Infants' Department.

The Goldington Road Schools are the finest in the Town and are built on the Central Hall system. As the length of the Hall in each block (Boys' and Girls') runs North and South, the Class Rooms on each side of the Hall receive their fair share of sunlight.

The Clapham Road Schools are also of comparatively recent construction, are of the Central Hall Type, and are well lighted.

The Queen's Park Schools are built on the Central Hall plan, but the length of the Hall runs East and West so that the Class Rooms on the South side get all the sunlight, and those on the North none.

The Priory Street School is a good modern Building.

The Ampthill Road Schools were built a good many years ago and subsequently enlarged. Many of the Rooms are cheerless and in winter very cold.

There is a considerable space of ground attached to each of the Schools, which serves for the purpose of play and drilling, and provides a good air space for all the Buildings. Additional ground will shortly be acquired for extra playing ground at Queen's Park School.

The ventilation is on the natural system, supplemented in all of the Class Rooms, except those of the Harpur Schools, by Tobin's Tubes and outlets in the roof.

The chief means of warming the Class Rooms is by Manchester grates. Clapham Road and Harpur Infant's Schools have radiators in the Hall.

All the Council Schools are now provided with Electric light : the Harpur Trust Elementary Schools are lighted by Gas, but application has been made by the Committee to the Managers of the Trust for the installation of Electric light in the whole building. The daylight illumination in these Schools is also defective : that of the other Schools is good.

With the exception of a few old desks in the Harpur Upper Departments, all the Schools are supplied with modern dual desks, and in one or two departments the older children are supplied with modern separate locker desks.

Clapham Road and Priory Infant Schools have been supplied with sets of 'infant' chairs, and it is intended to supply the other Infant Schools in the same way.

All the Schools are provided with trough closets. This is an objectionable system from almost every point of view, and were it not for the stringent financial conditions prevailing I should strongly urge its replacement by the pedestal system. In his Annual Report for 1908, Sir George Newman, then Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, wrote thus : " Trough closets are still common in Schools, though some Local Education Authorities are now introducing separate pedestal closets in their new Schools, which from an educational aspect and from the standpoint of health are superior to any form of trough closet." The dimensions of the sanitary annexes are too cramped, the passages being narrow ; further, the closets are not sufficiently lighted ; this defect might be easily remedied by the insertion of glass tiles in the roof at intervals. The boys' departments are provided with urinals. The drainage systems in the 'Council' Schools are efficient and with the closets are kept in good order by the caretakers. I must, however, draw attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the sanitary buildings of the Harpur Trust Elementary Schools.

In all the Schools wash basins are provided ; in some Schools these are placed in the cloak-rooms, in others in the passages ; the latter arrangement is a bad one. Each School is provided with a standpipe and drinking cup in the playground. Very little use appears to be made of the washing accommodation ; the educational value of a properly appointed lavatory does not seem to have been realized by those who planned or adapted the various Schools. Everything should be done to impress children with the idea of the importance of personal cleanliness and decency. If they do not acquire these notions during their school-life they are unlikely to acquire them at all. Many of the cloak-rooms are too small ; in some of the Schools pegs have to be provided in the passages as well. The pegs on the stands are placed too close together, with the result that the children's clothes overlap each other. In two of the departments wood is used for the panneling of the cloak-rooms ; tiles would be a much more suitable material. There are no special arrangements for drying the clothes and boots of the children. The class-rooms and cloak-rooms are kept clean, but the ventilation of the latter in some of the Schools is imperfect owing to their inadequate size. Though these various points offer themselves for criticism and there is room for improvement, still there is nothing that seriously affects the health of the children.

Two rounds of routine Medical Inspection (in accordance with the Schedule of the Board of Education) were made of the three age groups, Entrants, Intermediate and Leavers, at the various Schools, one before the Summer holidays and one after. No serious disturbance of school routine was caused by the inspections and care was always taken to consult the Head Teachers before fixing the visits. The condition of the children was, as usual, taking it on the whole, very satisfactory, there being but little serious disease among them ; for the most part they are well nourished and well clothed ; there is, however, a perceptible difference in the Schools according to the districts which they serve. Parents always receive printed notice of the inspections inviting them to attend ; the attendance varies greatly at the different schools, and in several is much less than might be wished.

In regard to uncleanness there is no doubt that matters are much better than they were twelve years ago, and the efforts of the Nurse are better appreciated by the parents than formerly. The old and very prevalent belief that so long as nothing was 'alive' the mere presence of 'nits' did not matter is, it is to be hoped, dying out, and it is an encouraging fact that the elder girls not infrequently seek the advice of the Nurse of their own accord. It was not found necessary during the year to put in force the provisions of Section 122 of the Children Act, 1908; a written and printed notice from the Nurse requesting the mother to bring the child to the Clinic being all that was necessary. Here the requisite treatment is given by the Nurse and the mothers instructed how to continue it at home. This in nearly all instances they are anxious and willing to do.

The average number of visits per annum made by the Nurses to each Department for the purpose of Cleanliness inspection was two; the total number of examinations made during the year was 3501, the number of individual children found to be unclean being 313. The great majority were suffering from 'nits' in the head; 141 children were treated at the Clinic, the rest being attended to satisfactorily at home by their mothers under the direction of the Nurse.

There was the usual large number of minor ailments and this branch of the work of the Medical Service is greatly appreciated by both the children and their parents.

The records are kept on the card index system; the total attendances at the two Clinics numbered 5,800, distributed as follows :—

Unclean heads	...	...	...	...	...	620
External eye complaints...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Ears	...	...	...	...	...	154
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	114
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	2327
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	482
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	1946
						<hr/> 5800 <hr/>

In the matter, however, of the treatment of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids I beg earnestly to call the most serious attention of the Committee to the question. Practically no treatment was secured for this class of defect during the year and in addition there was a large balance of untreated cases left over from the preceding year. At present the only course open to the Medical Officer is to advise parents to consult their own Medical Advisers or to procure a Hospital Letter. Much time and energy are wasted in following up these cases to enquire what has been done, and in the majority of instances it is found that nothing is done. In my Report for 1919 I suggested that (i) either the Committee should organize a Throat Clinic or (ii) an arrangement should be made with the County Hospital 'whereby a special time would be set apart for the treatment of cases sent by the Authority and the Surgeons and Anaesthetists would be paid for their services on a scale to be arranged and would at the same time be required to keep a

register for the Committee if the cases operated on and of the results.' Unfortunately the Governing Body of the Hospital when approached did not see their way to such an arrangement and so the present haphazard plan of sending such cases as can procure letters to the out-patient department still continues. If it should still prove impossible to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Hospital your Committee will be faced with the necessity of starting a separate Throat Clinic; in this case it would probably be advisable to approach the County Authority with a view to a joint scheme.

There is very little Tuberculosis among the schoolchildren: all cases are referred to the County Tuberculosis Officer (Dr. Welch), and watched in close co-operation with him.

Few cases of Ringworm were found at the various Inspections as they are generally discovered either by the Mothers, the Nurses or the Teachers, and are at once referred to the School Inspection Clinic. During the year, a large number of cases occurred but many of these were only slight affections of the skin, generally of the face or neck, and and as they were easily treated and cured, did not involve much loss of School attendance: this is not the case however with ringworm of the head, and it is a question whether it is not advisable to provide an X-ray installation for the treatment of these cases. There was no serious external eye disease.

The amount of refraction work (as also other work) was considerably interfered with by the serious illness of the senior School Nurse, towards the end of the year: however, all cases carried forward from the previous year were disposed of, and a fair proportion of the new cases. The greater number of the defects of refraction were due to Hyperopia and Hyperopic Astigmatism, cases of Myopia being relatively rare.

The amount of crippling defects is happily very small in the Schools, and cases are easily dealt with in consequence. Miss Stansfeld, Principal of the College of Physical Training, most kindly undertakes gratuitously the orthopædic treatment of any cases recommended by the Medical Officer.

Information is at once given to the Head Teachers of all cases of Infectious Disease in school children, which are notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and, conversely, notice is given by the Head Teachers of all cases of non-attendance known or believed by them to be of an infectious nature. The year was marked by the small amount of Scarlet Fever among the Elementary scholars. In March the Infant Department and one Class in the Mixed Department of Goldington Road School were closed as a precautionary measure for a week on account of Scarlet Fever; there was no epidemic. Owing to the abolition of compulsory notification of Measles it has been found more difficult to ascertain the existence of cases of this disease.

The arrangements for following up have proved effective in two of the main classes of work, viz., Dental and Refraction cases, but as explained above have proved highly unsatisfactory in the Throat cases for the reasons already given. Skin and Ear cases have been treated at

the Clinic ; the comparatively small number of cases comprised under other headings have either been referred for advice and treatment or treated at the Clinic according to circumstances.

Owing to the moulders' strike there was a considerable amount of unemployment in the town towards the end of 1919, and in December the Committee resolved that it was expedient to put in force the Provision of Meals Acts of 1906—1914. Arrangements were made with a leading firm of contractors who kindly provided accommodation for the purpose in one of their largest restaurants. The necessary public notices were issued and the Head Teachers were instructed to present the names of all children who in their opinion were in need of meals and further information was furnished by the School Medical Service, the Health Visitors and the Attendance Officers. The provision of free meals commenced on December 22nd, 1919, and ended on February 18th, 1920. The number of vouchers issued was 114. The number of meals provided was 7891, and consisted of 3880 breakfasts and 4011 dinners. The average attendance at breakfast was 66 and at dinner 68. The contractors charged 3½d. per head for breakfast and 4½d. for dinner. The meals were given in the restaurant in the public rooms ; the food supplied was abundant and excellent and well served. Rations were supplied for the Saturday dinner and two meals on Sunday. Breakfast consisted of porridge with milk and syrup ; bread with margarine or dripping, and tea. Dinner consisted of a good meat soup with bread (unlimited) and of a pudding. There was no restriction on the number of helpings. Service was given gratuitously by the staff of the establishment. A rota of Members of the Committee and others was appointed, but the task of supervision fell almost entirely upon the staff of the School Medical Service. Systematic weighing of the children was carried out weekly. In 69 per cent. the average weight figure was slightly above, in 19 per cent. equal to and in 12 per cent. very slightly below the figure registered at the beginning. This result taken in conjunction with the physical condition of the children leads to an inference very creditable to the parents.

The following is the report of the School Dentist.

To the Bedford Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1920 on School Dental Inspection and work associated therewith.

Since I started this work I have been steadily aiming to make my main object the conservative treatment of the children's teeth. At first this was impossible owing to the unhealthy condition of almost every child's mouth. However, things are very rapidly improving, and towards the end of the year I was able to make a start in this direction, and completed 66 fillings.

For the year 1921 I am going to put in two sessions each week, and shall then, I hope, be able to fill every saveable tooth, and also to include the treatment of children of the 5 year-old group.

Already it is most satisfactory to note the improvement in the children who have previously been to me for treatment. And again, another welcome sign is that parents are almost always willing to buy toothbrushes at the Clinic; so that now hundreds of children are using them regularly, who before had never owned one.

(See Table IV. "D").

In conclusion I should like to add that every possible help has been given to me by the Head Teachers of all the Schools.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. BOWER, L.D.S., R.C.S. (ENG.),

School Dental Officer.

In December, 1920, owing to representations that there was much distress in the town due to unemployment the Committee decided as a tentative measure to put the Provisions of Meals Acts into force. Arrangements were made with the same caterers as before at the rate of 5d. per head for breakfast and 7d. for dinner, including service. The meals were the same as before, but served in a room belonging to the Corporation and not in a restaurant. The meals were discontinued on Jan. 15th, 1921. There were 1,321 breakfasts and 1,369 dinners.

The new premises acquired for the purposes of the Clinic next door to the Education Offices have not yet been converted to their proper use and the work is still carried on in the building in Horne Lane. It is to be hoped that the financial position in the next year may allow of the transfer as the present rooms are not really suitable for the purpose.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS,

M.A., M.D. (Oxon.), &c.,

March, 1921.

School Medical Officer.

TABLE I.

Number of Children Inspected, 1st January, 1920, to 31st December, 1920.

A.—'C' Group.

Age.	Entrants.					Inter- mediate Group	Leavers.				Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages		12	13	14	Other Ages	
Boys	2	106	143	23	9	238	188	6	2	...	717
Girls ... ..	...	95	139	47	16	251	177	2	...	...	727
	2	201	282	70	25	489	365	8	2	...	1444

x.

B.—Groups other than 'Code.'

	Intermediate Group other than 8 years.		Special Cases.		Re-examination (i.e., No. of Children Re-examined).	
Boys	12		128		144	
Girls	17		146		140	
Totals	29		274		284	

C.—Total Number of Individual Children Inspected by the Medical Officer,
whether as Routine or Special Cases.

No. of Individual Children inspected.	
1891.	

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1920

DEFECT OR DISEASE.					Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
					Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for Treatment.
	Malnutrition ... ..				...	15	2	2
	Uncleanliness :							
	Head				7	...	4	...
	Body				1	2	...	...
Skin	{ Ringworm :							
	Head ... ..				...	...	67	...
	Body ... ..				...	...	39	...
	Scabies ... ..				...	...	18	...
	Impetigo				2	...	16	...
	Other Diseases (non-Tubercular)				1	2	10	...
Eye	{ Blepharitis				3	...	3	...
	Conjunctivitis ... ..				...	1	...	...
	Keratitis ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Corneal Ulcer ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Corneal Opacities ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Defective Vision				62	4	34	...
	Squint				32	6	4	...
	Other Conditions ... ..				...	...	1	...
Ear	{ Defective Hearing				2	1	2	...
	Otitis Media				8	3	5	1
	Other Ear Diseases ... ..				...	1	4	...
Nose and Throat	{ Enlarged Tonsils				52	2	...	...
	Adenoids				1	1	...	...
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids				15	4	2	...
	Other Conditions ... ..				...	...	3	...
	Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tubercular)				1	...	1	...
	Defective Speech ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Teeth—Dental Diseases				23	...	3	...
Heart and Circulation	{ Heart Disease :							
	Organic ... ..				...	7	...	2
	Functional ... ..				...	10	...	...
	Anemia ... ..				...	1	1	1
Lungs	{ Bronchitis ... ..				...	2	...	3
	Other Non-Tubercular Diseases				...	1	...	...
Tuberculosis	{ Pulmonary :							
	Definite ... ..				...	1	3	...
	Suspected ... ..				...	1	3	6
	Non-Pulmonary :							
	Glands ... ..				...	2	...	1
	Spine ... ..				...	1	...	...
	Hip ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Other Bones and Joints ... ..				...	...	1	1
	{ Skin ... ..				...	...	1	...
	Other Forms ... ..				...	...	...	...
Nervous System	{ Epilepsy ... ..				...	2	...	3
	Chorea ... ..				...	1	...	...
	Other Conditions ... ..				...	4	1	...
Deformities	{ Rickets ... ..				...	...	...	...
	Spinal Curvature ... ..				...	2	...	1
	Other Forms ... ..				...	5	1	1
	Other Defects and Diseases ... ..				...	12	11	12

Number of Individual Children having defects which required Treatment or to be kept under observation 556

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1920.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Blind (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	...	2	2
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind .	1	...	1
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
Deaf and Dumb (including partially deaf) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools ..	1	...	1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf ..	1	3	4
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
Mentally Deficient	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	36	41	77
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally De- fective Children	4	4	8
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during the year	...	...	...
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	..
	Imbeciles	At School ... ..	...	...	...
Not at School ... ..		...	...	...
	Idiots	... ..	...	...	...
Epileptics.		Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	6	2	8
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics ...	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools .	...	...	...
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
Physically Defective	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	3	3	6
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	2	3	5
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools...	...	..	...
		Not at School	1	...	1
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	2	1	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools...	...	...	...
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
	Crippling due to causes other than Tuber- culosis, <i>i.e.</i> , Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism	Attending Public Elementary Schools ...	9	3	12
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ... ..	...	...	...
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools...	...	...	...
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
	Other Physical Defectives, <i>e.g.</i> , delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools ; children suffer- ing from severe heart disease	Attending Public Elementary Schools ..	5	5	10
		Attending Open-Air Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open-Air Schools ... ..	...	...	...
		Not at School ... ..	...	...	...
Dull or Backward		Retarded 2 years ... ..	..	...	...
		Retarded 3 years ... ..	...	...	..

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1920.

A.—Treatment of Minor Ailments.

Disease or Defect	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm-Head ...	71	71	...	71
Ringworm-Body ...	70	70	...	70
Scabies	19	19	...	19
Impetigo	56	56	...	56
Minor Injuries	191	191	...	191
Other Skin Disease	14	14	...	14
<i>Ear Disease</i>	27	27	...	27
<i>Eye Disease</i> (external and other)... ..	18	18	...	18
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	11	11	...	11

B.—Treatment of Visual Defect.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were prescribed	For whom Glasses were provided	Recommended for Treatment other than by Glasses	Received other Forms of Treatment	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Other-wise	Total					
132	98	2	—	100	52	52	1	19	26

C.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for Treatment.	Number of Children.			
	Received Operative Treatment.			Received other Forms of Treatment.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme, Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Total.	
73	—	—	—	—

D.—Treatment of Dental Defects.

1. *Number of Children dealt with.*

	Age Groups.											“Specials”	Total
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
(a) Inspected by dentist	83	138	98	11	2	2	3	...	...	...	337	
(b) Referred for treatment	363
(c) Actually treated	511
(d) Re-treated (result of periodical examination)

2. *Particulars of Time given and of Operations undertaken.*

No. of Half Days devoted to Inspection	No. of Half Days devoted to Treatment	Total No. of Attendances made by the Children at the Clinic	No. of Permanent Teeth		No. of Temporary Teeth		Total No. of Fillings	No. of Administrations of General Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6)	No. of other Operations	
			Extracted	Filled	Extracted	Filled			Permanent Teeth	Temporary Teeth
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
6	36	1821	46	66	1705	—	66	—	—	—

TABLE V.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF DEFECTS AS SHOWN IN TABLE IV.
(A., B., C., & D. (1) and (2).

Disease or Defect	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
Minor Ailments	477	477	—	477
Visual Defects	132	98	2	100
Defects of nose & throat	73	—	—	—
Dental Defects	363	511	—	511
Other Defects	—	—	—	—
	1045	1086	2	1088

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY RELATING TO CHILDREN MEDICALLY INSPECTED AT THE
ROUTINE INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1920.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections	1473
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from—	
Malnutrition	15
Skin Disease	5
Defective Vision (including Squint)	104
Eye Disease	4
Defective Hearing	3
Ear Disease	12
Nose and Throat Disease	75
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	1
Defective Speech	—
Dental Disease	23
Heart Disease—	
Organic	7
Functional	10
Anæmia	1
Lung Disease (non-tubercular)	3
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary { Definite	1
Suspected... ..	1
Non-pulmonary	3
Disease of the Nervous System	7
Deformities	7
Other defects and diseases	12
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or foot-gear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	90
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, &c.)	185
(5) *The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	38

*Note.—See Remarks on page vi. of Report.

TABLE OF VISION, 1920.

Boys—12 years group.

	L. 6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	6/0
R. 6/6	135	12	3	...	...	1	2	...
6/9	6	15	1	2	1	...	...	...
6/12	...	4	4	...	.	1	...	...
6/18	...	..	2	2	...	...	...	...
6/24	...	3	1	2	1	...	...	...
6/36	...	...	...	1	...	2	..	...
6/60	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
6/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reading Imperfect	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...

Boys—8 years group.

	L. 6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/34	6/36	6/60	6/0
R. 6/6	173	10	4	1	...	1	2	...
6/9	7	16	...	..	...	...	...	...
6/12	1	2	6	2	1	...	..	...
6/18	..	3	1	3	...	...	...	...
6/24	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
6/36	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
6/60	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
6/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reading Imperfect	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE OF VISION, 1920.

GIRLS—12 years group.

	L. 6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	6/0
R. 6/6	139	8	1	3	1	2	2	...
6/9	1	6	...	1	2	..	...	1
6/12	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...
6/18	..	...	...	1	...	1	...	..
6/24	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
6/36	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...
6/60	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
6/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Reading Imperfect	2	..	...	.	...	...	...	...

GIRLS—8 years group.

	L. 6/6	6/9	6/12	6/18	6/24	6/36	6/60	6/0
R. 6/6	175	16	5	...	1	...	1	...
6/9	3	26	3	2	1	1	...	...
6/12	.	4	4	...	..	...	...	...
6/18	..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
6/24	...	...	1	1	3	2	...	...
6/36	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...
6/60	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
6/0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Reading Imperfect	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE OF ILLNESSES BEFORE ADMISSION TO SCHOOL.

Number of Children :—Boys, 283 ; Girls, 297 ; total, 580.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total	Per cent.
Measles	188	229	417	71.89
Whooping Cough	127	125	252	43.44
Chicken Pox	65	65	130	22.41
Scarlet Fever	5	14	19	3.20
Diptheria...	6	10	16	2.75
No infectious illness	49	50	99	17.06

276 Mothers and 7 Fathers attended at the Inspections.



Borough of Bedford.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1920.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL, BEDFORD,

April, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public
Health Committee.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Sanitary Inspector to your Authority I have
the honour to submit to you my TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
REPORT showing the work done in this Department
during the year ending December 31st, 1920.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED WALLACE MERRIE,
Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY.

No. of House Drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	67
No. where defects were found	...	...	35
No. of Schools and Boarding House drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	44
No. where defects were found	...	...	2
No. of House Drains tested on complaint	...	...	20
No. where defects were found	...	...	13
No. of House Drains examined after Notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	139
No. where defects were found	...	...	16
No. of re-tests made after drain repairs	...	...	179
No. of Nuisances reported or discovered	...	...	438
No. of visits of Inspection re Abatement of Nuisances	...	...	2134
No. of Houses inspected under Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 (Sec. 15)	...	...	203
No. of Houses require cleansing, etc.	...	...	158
No. of Houses require repairing, etc	...	...	195
No. of House yards require paving, etc.	...	...	75
No. of Houses scheduled for reconstruction or demolition	...	...	71
No. of Houses and Drains inspected under Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	492
No. of Houses require cleansing	...	...	22
No. of Houses require repairing	...	...	176
No. of House yards require paving	...	...	23
No. of Overcrowding investigated	...	...	130
No. of houses Overcrowded	...	...	19
No. of Notifications of Infectious Disease	...	...	308
No. of Patients removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	168
No. of Rooms disinfected	...	...	311
No. of Houses require Internal cleansing after Infectious Disease	...	...	13
No. of Articles put through the Steam Disinfector	...	...	2300
No. of visits to Outworkers' premises	...	...	51
No. of Nuisances, etc., found at same	...	...	7
No. of visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	...	169
No. of Houses without Ashbins	...	...	46
No. of Houses with rainwater pipes direct to drains	...	...	53
No. of visits to Houses let in lodgings	...	...	49
No. of visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	3578
No. of visits to Cowsheds and Milk Vendors' Premises	...	...	131
No. of Samples taken under Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	85
No. found adulterated	...	...	11
No. of verbal notices given to abate	...	...	125
No. of preliminary notices served to abate	...	...	676
No. of statutory notices served to abate	...	...	408
No. of Legal Proceedings taken under Public Health Act	...	...	2
No. of Legal Proceedings taken under Food and Drugs Act	...	...	1

The following tables show the number of notices served under the various Acts :—

PRELIMINARY NOTICES, 1920.

Nuisances.	Cleansing.	Over-crowding.	P. H. A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 37.	P.H.A.A.A. 1907. Sec. 25.	Totals.
313 Verbal 125	22	19	40	53	98	676

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1920.

Nuisances.	Cleansing. P.H.A., 1875 Sec. 46.	P. H. A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P. H. A. A. A. 1907. Sec. 37.	P. H. A. A. A. 1907. Sec. 25.	Housing & Town Planning Act. Sec. 15, 17, 18.	Total.
64	12	40	16	75	195	408

AT PRESENT UNABATED, BUT WORK IN HAND, 1920.

Nuisances.	Cleansing. P.H.A., 1875, Sec. 46.	P.H.A. 1875. Sec. 36.	P. H. A. A. A. 1907. Sec. 25.	Housing & Town Planning Act. Sec. 15 & 17.	Total.
7	3	14	0	21	45

NOTE.—71 Houses are scheduled for reconstruction or demolition when alternative accommodation is provided. The outstanding notices unabated in 1919 have been complied with. Those for 1920 will be abated as soon as tradesmen can do the work, orders having been given for them to do it.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION (P.H.A. 1875).

492 houses have been inspected, and I have called the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to 22 houses, 16 of which were inspected after Infectious Disease, in which more or less internal cleansing was necessary.

The usual notices under Section 46, Public Health Act, 1875, were served and complied with.

OVERCROWDING.

125 cases were investigated. The fact that it is impossible to get houses owing to the great dearth of housing accommodation, many houses have more inmates in them now than is desirable. The front rooms (parlours) have been made into bedrooms and bed-sitting rooms, so that the actual sleeping rooms are not so much overcrowded as would appear from the number of persons found in the house, for in only 19 instances excessive overcrowding of bedrooms were discovered, and abatement of the nuisances insisted upon, and the dispossessed persons no doubt went and crowded other houses.

There are about 120 houses in the town with two families living in them, not all of them being of the artisan class.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

During the year, 203 houses have been inspected under this Act.

At 195 houses, more or less work was required to be done to put them in a reasonable state of repair.

The following Table shows details of the work carried out.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.	Factory and Workshop Act.
No. of Workshops cleansed			7
No. of Outworkers' Premises cleansed ...			7
No. of Bakehouses cleansed			25

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
No. of Cowsheds limewashed	2	
No. of Slaughter Houses limewashed	46	
No. of rooms in Common Lodging Houses lime-washed	32	
No. of rooms in Houses let in Lodgings cleansed...	50	

DRAINS.

No. found blocked and cleared	59	5
Nb. flushed	59	5
No. found defective	42	13
No. repaired	36	9
No. wholly relaid	13	13
No. of intercepting traps fixed	7	2
No. of intercepting traps repaired	5	1
No. of intercepting traps stoppers fixed	6	1
No. of chambers and manholes built	35	9
No. of new covers to manholes	35	9
No. of fresh air inlets fixed	10	1
No. of fresh air inlets repaired	7	0
No. of soil and vent pipes fixed	8	6
No. of soil and vent pipes repaired	38	1
No. of new gullies provided to sinks	5	44
No. of insanitary traps abolished	3	5
No. of rain water pipes disconnected	53	0
No. of rain water tanks cleared out	30	0
No. of rain water tanks made to overflow gullies...	4	0

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—*Continued.*

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
YARDS, ETC.		
No. of yards paved	3	70
No. of yard paving repaired	20	50
No. of right of ways gravelled and levelled ...	12	17
No. of division walls and fences repaired ...	2	9
No. of gates repaired	1	2
No. of ashbins provided	46	...
Animals and fowls improperly kept ...	2	5
Manure and other offensive matter removed ...	4	2
Manure pits rebuilt or repaired	1	...
HOUSES.		
No. of rooms and staircases cleansed	74	757
No. of inside walls repaired	74	757
No. of verminous rooms fumigated	3	18
No. of damp walls remedied	29	256
No. of house floors relaid or repaired	22	124
No. of window cords repaired	15	117
No. of window frames repaired and made to open	14	197
No. of bedrooms ventilated	5	33
No. of firegrates and fireplaces repaired	1	53
No. of new doors fixed	3	11
No. of doors repaired	5	44
No. of splashboards fixed to doors	2	28
No. of cupboard doors repaired	5	43
No. of cupboards cleansed	5	143
No. of pantries cleansed	7	98
No. of pantries repaired and ventilated	2	122
No. of coppers repaired	5	67
No. of water service pipes repaired	2	27
No. supplied with separate service ... ..	...	21
No. of sinks fixed	3	23
No. of sinks repaired	5	16
No. of new waste pipes fixed	5	38
No. of waste pipes repaired	7	41
No. of sink and bath waste pipes trapped	29	12
No. of outside walls repaired	3	122
No. of roofs repaired	13	91
No. of spoutings repaired	17	95
No. of chimney heads repaired	2	16
No. of outside passages limewashed	1	2
No. of staircases repaired	5	39

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.—*Continued.*

	Public Health Act.	Housing and Town Planning Act.
W.C.'s, ETC.		
No. of defective w.c.'s repaired	15	29
No. of w.c.'s rebuilt	1	2
No. of new pedestal pans fixed	15	5
No. of Hopper Pans fixed	9	11
No. of filthy pans cleansed	67	51
No. of w.c. seats repaired	11	31
No. of w.c. cisterns repaired or fixed	81	67
No. of floors relaid	2	19
No. of w.c. doors repaired	2	25
No. of lights provided to w.c.	4	85
No. of ventilators fixed to w.c.	1	39
No. of w.c. walls cleansed	5	139
No. of w.c. spoutings provided or repaired	2	57
No. of w.c. roofs repaired		
OUTHOUSES.		
No. of defective ones repaired or rebuilt	1	9
No. of floors relaid and repaired	1	21
No. of doors repaired	2	22
No. of walls cleansed	4	75
No. of roofs repaired	2	26
No. of spoutings provided or repaired	6	9
No. of stable floors relaid	1	...

It may be thought, on perusal of the above table of sanitary work carried out, that many of the items are of a small or trivial nature, but small sanitary defects have a greater influence upon the health of the community than many persons realise. Bacteriology has shown us what a menace to health small things can be.

Broken window cords, for instance, do not allow of the windows being open; this means foul air in the room; foul air may predispose the inhaler to consumption, and repaired window cords may mean fresh air and good health.

Complaints are received that there are bad smells arising from defective drains about the house; on investigation the drains are found sound, but the gullies are dirty, and the waste pipes foul, and vitiated air passing up untrapped and foul waste pipes in the house may be the primary cause of disease in those inhaling it.

Damp wall, from the surface of the garden being above the damp course, and the air gratings covered; result, dry rot and bad smells under the floor. Loose paving around sink gullies, allowing soakage in the earth, a warm day, children playing around the gully, and diarrhœa is the result; and so on. It often requires a deal of proving before a complaining householder is convinced that the smells they have experienced have not been from defective drains, but from other sources.

No closing or demolition orders were made in 1920, but 71 houses are scheduled for demolition or reconstruction, and will be dealt with as soon as other suitable accommodation is obtainable for the inmates.

The following gives situation of these houses:—

Number of Houses.	Situation.	Inmates.		Totals.
		Adult.	Children.	
6	Butcher's Yard.....	10	4	14
12	Bell Court.....	30	22	52
3	St. John's Street	2	1	3
2	London Road	5	4	9
4	Ram Yard.....	6	0	6
14	St. Cuthbert's Square	19	2	22
1	Paradine Court	1	0	1
7	Queen's Row..	13	18	31
4	Tavistock Place.....	2	2	4
6	Saddler's Court.....	9	8	17
8	Chandos Street.....	8	10	18
4	Gravel Lane	7	13	20
71		112	85	197

THE NUMBER OF HOUSES ALREADY CLOSED IS SHOWN AS FOLLOWS :

During the Years 1905 to 1919.				
Locality.	No. Closed.	Rent Paid per week.	No. of Inmates.	No Demolished.
Bell Court	3	2/6 to 3/3	19	2
Parish Court	4	1/4 to 1/8	15	4
Chandos Street	4	2/- to 2/3	13	4
Spring Gardens	8	1/11 to 3/-	19	8
Gravel Lane	3	3/3	22	0
Christie Court	10	1/6 to 3/-	27	10
Graham's Yard	5	"	12	0
Paradine Court	7	"	20	7
Malden's Yard	8	"	40	8
Castle Hill	2	2/-	7	2
Newnham Street	2	2/6	8	2
Gravel Lane	4	2/4	18	4
Priory Street	3	2/-, 2/3 & 2/9	6	3
Cardington Road	1	5/3	5	1
Tavistock Place	10	2/10	32	10
Balsall Street	1	3/-	2	1
St. John's Street	1	3/6	2	1
Stanley Street	1	£18	5	0
Midland Road	2	£30	0	2
Hurst Grove	26	£20	120	0
Newnham Street	3	2/6 to 3/6	17	0
Hand Court	13	3/- to 4/-	41	0
Amphill Street	4	2/7 to 3/3	12	4
Totals	125		436	7+

HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH WITHOUT SEPARATE W.C. ACCOMMODATION.

In 1919 there were 145 houses with 71 W.C.s. At present there are 126 houses with 62 W.C.s.

Allhallows Lane	...	...	2 w.c.'s to	4 houses.
Allhallows Lane	...	...	3 " "	5 "
Allhallows Lane	...	...	1 " "	2 "
Beauchamp Row	...	...	1 " "	2 "
Beauchamp Row	...	...	1 " "	2 "
Beauchamp Row	...	...	1 " "	2 "
Bell Court	...	...	2 " "	4 "
Bell Court	...	...	2 " "	4 "
Butcher's Yard	...	...	2 " "	6 "
Castle Hill	...	...	2 " "	3 "

Houses without Separate W.C. Accommodation—Contd.

Chandos Street	...	...	2	„	„	3	„
Chandos Street	...	...	3	„	„	6	„
Chandos Street	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
Chandos Street	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
Gravel Lane	...	...	2	„	„	4	„
Greenhill Street	...	...	2	„	„	5	„
Hassett Street	...	...	3	„	„	5	„
Ram Yard	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
Richbell Court	...	...	3	„	„	7	„
Roise Cottages	...	...	3	„	„	7	„
Sadler's Court	...	...	3	„	„	6	„
St. Cuthbert's Square	...	...	6	„	„	12	„
St. John's Place	...	...	5	„	„	10	„
Thurlow Street	...	...	3	„	„	5	„
Tower Court	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	„	„	3	„
Tavistock Place	...	...	2	„	„	4	„
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
Tavistock Place	...	...	1	„	„	3	„
Union Street	...	...	1	„	„	2	„
<i>Total</i>			62	„	„	126	„

In 2 instances there are 3 houses to 1 w.c.

In 2 „ „ „ 5 „ 2 w.c.'s.

In 2 „ „ „ 7 „ 2 w.c.'s.

In 3 „ „ „ 3 „ 2 w.c.'s.

In 2 „ „ „ 5 „ 3 w.c.'s.

The remaining houses have 1 w.c. to 2 houses.

The accommodation for the above houses is sufficient for the needs of the occupiers, although they would prefer to have separate ones, but this cannot be enforced.

HOUSES NOT CONNECTED TO THE SEWAGE SYSTEM.

Pail Closets.		Earth Closets.		Cesspools.		Midden.		Septic Tank.	
1920.	1912.	1920.	1912.	1920.	1912.	1920.	1912.	1920.	1912.
4	4	7	16	6	6	3	3	1	1

NUISANCES.

The 438 Nuisances discovered or reported at the office (including those found during house-to-house inspection) were of a varied nature. In 125 instances, verbal intimation to persons responsible was sufficient to procure the abatement of the nuisances, and with the exception of the number shown in the last table, have been abated.

21 complaints were received at the office in respect to bad smells emanating from street sewers. These complaints were at once handed to the Borough Surveyor, who had the matter investigated.

In 14 instances complaints were received from householders relative to the non-removal of house refuse. These were at once communicated to the Borough Surveyor, who had them attended to.

DRAIN TESTING.

On request 67 house drains were tested, and the sanitary fittings reported upon, for which £50 5s. was received, and paid into the District Fund. At 34, defects of more or less serious nature were found. In 12 instances a new 4-in. drain was laid under modern conditions, four intercepting traps being fixed. The defects at the other houses were remedied and passed after re-testing.

20 drains were tested on complaint, and in 13 instances were found defective, 7 of them were relaid, and 6 were repaired.

139 drains were examined after notification of Infectious Diseases in the house, and in 16 instances were found defective and remedied. The defects were not of such a serious nature as to be the probable cause of the disease in the house.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

44 drains of the Schools and Boarding Houses in connection with the Schools were tested and a report sent to the Governors and Boarding House Masters. Defects were found in 2 instances and were remedied.

The same inspection was made at the Kindergarten and other Schools, no defects being found.

£44 5s. was received for this work, and paid to the District Fund.

SANITARY DUST BINS.

46 notices to provide proper Galvanised Iron Dust Bins have been served, and in 36 cases these dust bins have been provided; but it is still a matter of difficulty to procure them promptly.

Since 1910, 3,523 dust bins have been provided, in lieu of old boxes, etc.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of 1920 the Register contained the names of persons keeping 2 Cowsheds and 47 Milkshops, together with the names of 37 purveyors of Milk. 15 of the latter reside outside the town, but retail milk within the Borough.

The Food Inspector has on 131 occasions visited the premises of Cowkeepers and Milk Vendors.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses in the Borough number 23, yearly licences being granted by the Authority to 18. The Food Inspector has made 3,578 visits to them. (See report of the Medical Officer of Health).

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 3 offensive trades carried on in the Borough, viz., Frying of Fish, Rag and Bone Dealing, and Storing of Hides, Skins, and Fat.

The following are the situation where "offensive trades" are carried on in the Borough:—

FISH FRYING (12).	RAG AND BONE (4).	HIDES AND SKINS (2).
26, Ford End Road.	Gwyn Street.	Gwyn Street.
66, Iddesleigh Road.	Beckett Street.	Roise Street.
2, Harpur Street.	Hassett Street.	
59, St. John's Street.	Midland Road.	
37, Muswell Road.		
37, Park Road, E.		
62, Tavistock Street.		
108, Greyfriars Walk.		
1, Great Butts St.		
34, Denmark Street.		
22, The Broadway.		
2, Althorpe Street.		

The Bye-Laws regulating these premises have been observed, and very few complaints have been received. There have been, as a rule, complaints of smells generally in Summer time on Sundays, when butchers have brought bones to the places on Saturday night, so as not to have the smells in their own slaughter houses or shops during Sunday.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

There are 36 houses, with 90 rooms, on the Register. 49 visits of inspection have been made to them, and they are kept in a fairly good sanitary condition,

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 308 notifications of Infectious Disease were received by the Medical Officer of Health.

The houses were visited, and the circumstances surrounding the cases entered in the Register for the information of the Medical Officer of Health.

211 rooms were disinfected, and 2,300 articles put through the Steam Disinfector.

£5 18s. has been received during the year for disinfection of rooms, which sum has been paid into the District Fund.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

26 patients paid during the year £208 8s. 5d., which sum has been paid into the District Fund.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses on the register number 4, with 96 beds, 2 being houses which are also licensed for the sale of intoxicants. 169 visits were made to these houses, many in company with the Medical Officer of Health, and no fault could be found with the manner in which we found them conducted, the Bye-Laws being strictly observed.

No case of infectious disease was notified as occurring among the inmates, but 2 cases of tuberculosis were notified of persons who had been living at one of the houses, after they had been removed to the Poor Law Institution.

The following are the names of the houses, the number of beds in each house, and the number of beds occupied during the year 1920, as shown by the Weekly Returns.

8A, Tavistock Place.				"The Cock."	
6 Rooms. 50 Beds.				4 Rooms. 22 Beds.	
1920.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Total.
1st Qr.	1469	273	1742	810	810
2nd Qr.	1444	272	1716	722	722
3rd Qr.	1555	260	1815	642	642
4th Qr.	1595	268	1863	846	840
Totals	6063	1073	7136	3020	3020
Average per night .. 19.5				Per night .. 8.2	

"The Royal Oak."			"The White Hart."		Totals.		
4 Rooms. 17 Beds.			2 Rooms. 7 Beds.		For 96 Beds.		
1920.	Males.	Total.	Males.	Total.	Males.	F'm'l's.	Total.
1st Qr.	220	220	580	580	3078	273	3352
2nd Qr.	241	241	529	529	2936	272	3208
3rd Qr.	519	519	434	434	3150	260	3410
4th Qr.	593	593	498	498	3532	268	3800
Totals ..	1573	1573	2041	2041	12697	1073	13770
Average per night ..	4.3		per night ..	5.5	per night ..		37.7

1918....14042 Males ; 942 Females ; Total 14900.

1919....12319 ,, 1113 ,, ,, 13432.

A point for serious consideration in respect to these Common Lodging Houses, is the imminent probability of three of them, viz., "The Royal Oak," "The Cock," and "The White Hart," being closed, as these premises are for sale, as the licences to sell intoxicating liquors at these houses have been cancelled by the Licensing Magistrates, and compensation paid to the tenants.

"The Cock" and the "White Hart" are old Registered Common Lodging Houses, and have been in existence since 1854.

During the past twelve months the returns show that there were 5,061 "occupied beds" in these houses.

The closing of these Common Lodging Houses means that there will be a lack of accommodation for the class of people using them.

The question therefore arises as to where these people will go to and what effect it will have on the community, if private enterprise does not cater for this class of people.

STATUTE FAIRS.

The dwelling vans of the Showmen who visit the Town for the purpose of attending these fairs were all inspected.

No cases of sickness were discovered among the occupiers. The condition of the vans was satisfactory, though I believe some of them were overcrowded at night.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

85 samples of Food and Drugs have been purchased during the year, and submitted to the Public Analyst for the purpose of analysis.

74 samples were certified as genuine, and 11 samples as adulterated.

For detailed Tables, see Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The Tables in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health have been compiled from the Registers which are kept as required by Section 131. At the end of the year there were 604 Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Domestic Workrooms on the Register, of which the following list shows the different occupations:—

Occupation.	Factories, etc., where Motive Power is used.	Workshops	Domestic Workshops.	Outworkers.	Workplaces.
Dressmakers, Milliners, Mantle Makers, Costumers etc.	1	96	34	10	..
Tailors .....	..	39	39	60	1
Boot and Shoe Repairs ..	1	25	29	16	..
Builders, Carpenters, and Cabinet Makers	7	27	3	..	3
Printers	18	..	..	..	..
Motor and Cycle Repairs, etc.	6	22	1	..	..
Marine Stores .....	..	..	..	..	4
Painters .....	..	11	..	..	..
Plumbers .....	..	27	..	..	..
Upholsterers .....	..	6	3	10	..
Coach Builders and Wheelwrights	1	9	..	..	..
Chaff Cutters	5	..	..	..	2
Sugar Boilers .....	..	3	..	..	..
Cab Yards .....	..	..	..	..	12
Laundries	3	3	..	..	..
Watch Makers .....	..	12	8	..	..
Breweries	5	..	..	..	..
Shoeing Smiths .....	..	..	..	..	3
Electro Platers	1	1	..	..	..
Wood Turners	2	..	..	..	..
Bedding Manufacturers ..	1	..	..	..	..
Rope Makers .....	..	..	..	..	1
Engineers	14	3	..	..	..
Masons' Yards	1	2	1	..	..
Sale Yards .....	..	..	..	..	2
Coal Yards .....	..	..	..	..	3
Dyers	1	..	2	..	..
Gunsmiths .....	..	2	..	..	..

Factories and Workshops Table.—*Continued.*

Occupation.	Factories, etc., where Motive Power is used.	Workshops.	Domestic Workshops.	Outworkers.	Workplaces.
Aerated Water					
Manufacturers	3	1	..	..	..
Picture Frame Makers ..	..	1	..	..	..
Millers	3	..	..	..	..
Card Board Box and Bag Makers. . . . .	..	1	..	..	..
Photographers . . . . .	..	5	3	..	..
Wood Cutters	3	1	1	..	1
Bat Works	1	..	..	..	..
Engravers . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..
Umbrella Makers . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..
Timber Yards	4	..	..	..	..
Boat Builders . . . . .	..	1	1	..	..
Saddlers . . . . .	..	3	3	..	..
Bakehouses . . . . .	..	54	..	..	..
Basket Makers. . . . .	..	..	3	..	..
Fish Curing. . . . .	..	..	..	..	3
China Rivetting . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..
Chocolate Making	1	..	..	..	..
Totals. . . .	82	355	134	102	33

HOME WORK.

Occupiers of Factories and Workshops are compelled to keep lists of names and addresses of persons employed by them, to execute work at their own homes, and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority in February and August of each year. Prescribed forms of lists are forwarded to the various tradespeople who employ persons, so there is no excuse for the non-delivery of the lists.

70 notices were served on occupiers of Factories and Workshops as to keeping and sending of lists.

42 lists, containing the names of 102 persons, have been received. These lists are of great assistance, as when a case of infectious disease is notified, a glance down the list will show at once whether any home work is being done at the infected house. Each outworker's residence was visited, and in 9 cases the cleansing of the rooms used as workrooms was ordered and carried out.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 54 Bakehouses on the Register, of which 13 are at present unoccupied; none of these come under the definition "Underground Bakehouses," as laid down by Sec. 101, of the Factory Act.

In 25 instances the periodical limewashing was found to be overdue, and on the necessary orders being served, this was remedied.

In 11 instances no register was in evidence. No other cause of complaint was found on the many visits of inspection which were made.

REPORTS OF H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

During the year 4 notices of contravention of the Act, and remediable under the Public Health Act, were received from H.M. Inspector, and the necessary action taken to remedy it. In addition to the above, 8 notices of occupation of workshops were received from him, and same were entered in the register.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman, again I beg to thank you for your continued valuable support in the carrying out of my duties, and for your kind consideration in all matters I have brought before you.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED WALLACE MERRIE,

Sanitary Inspector.

